

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2006, in the above-identified application.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 39-40 and 49-52 are allowed, and that claims 6, 13, 15-20, 24-26, 30-32 and 34 contain allowable matter.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's willingness to conduct telephone interviews on June 2 and 15, 2006, to discuss the outstanding Office Action.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 5, 21, 28, 33, 35, 41, 46 and 53 to add the recitation that "the finished edge [of said fabric] is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric." Support for this recitation is found in the specification at, *inter alia*, paragraph [0024]. Specifically, the specification at paragraph [0024] states that providing a cured polymer material to form a finished edge enables the finished edge to stretch "to adjust to various body dimensions and body movements."

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As indicated above, claim 3 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 14, 21, 23, 27, 33, 35-37, 41-48, 53 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,482,167 to Grim et al. Referring to FIGS. 1-5 thereof, Grim discloses a casting blank 12 including a main body area 14 and an edge treatment 16 of non-rigid bonding material. The edge treatment 16 minimizes sharp edges that may scrape and irritate the skin of a patient. FIG. 6 shows the casting blank 12 formed into a cast covering a forearm 18 of a patient, with edge treatment 16 minimizing sharp edges. The cast is used in the field of orthopedic

immobilization assemblies. Col. 1, ln. 11. As a result, the cast is very stiff and rigid and cannot move. Col. 4, lns. 2-3. In response to the rejection, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is unanticipated by Grim because the reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric having a finished edge including "curing said polymer for finishing the edge of said fabric, wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric." Claims 2, 7-9, 11 and 14 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. As noted above, claim 3 has been canceled.

Independent claim 5 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric having a finished edge including "curing said polymer for finishing the edge of said fabric, wherein said polymer comprises silicone, and wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric."

Independent claim 21 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric having a finished edge including "curing said polymer for finishing the edge of said fabric . . . , wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric." Claims 23 and 27 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 21, which is unanticipated for the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 33 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including a bead of cured polymer material "wherein said bead of cured polymer material contacts at least some of the free ends of said fibers at the cut edge of said fabric for finishing the edge, wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric."

Independent claim 35 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including "a bead of cured polymer material provided over free ends of fibers at at least one of the edges of said fabric for finishing the at least one of the edges of said fabric, wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric." Claims 36 and 37 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 35.

Independent claim 41 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including a bead of a polymer material "wherein said polymer material provides a finished edge for said cut pattern piece, and wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said cut pattern piece." Claims 42-45 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 41.

Independent claim 46 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including "a cured polymer material provided in contact with the free ends of said fibers at the cut edge of said cut pattern piece, wherein said cured polymer material provides a sleek finished edge to said cut pattern piece that is devoid of narrow elastic, trim, lace and a folded-over edge, wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said cut pattern piece." Claims 47-48 and 54 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 46.

Independent claim 53 is unanticipated by Grim because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric having an edge including "after the disposing step, curing said polymer for finishing said unfinished edge of said fabric, wherein said polymer comprises silicone, and wherein said finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric."

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 7-12, 14 and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,531,176 to Johnson in view of Grim. Referring to FIGS. 1-6 thereof, Johnson discloses a method of making an applique. Referring to FIG. 2 thereof, Johnson discloses template shapes 14, 16 that are traced on a paper sheet 34. Referring to FIG. 4, a paper template is adhered to fabric 48 using a strip of peelable adhesive 52. Referring to FIG. 5, the fabric 48 is cut around the pattern 42. Referring to FIG. 6, the fabric 48 extending beyond the template 42 is folded over. Referring to FIG. 7, the fabric 48 is then attached to base sheet 18.

In response, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 5 is unobvious over Johnson and Grim because the cited references neither disclose nor suggest a method of making a fabric having a finished edge including "curing said polymer for finishing the edge of said fabric, wherein said polymer comprises silicone, and wherein the finished edge is stretchable for adjusting to movement of said fabric."

Claims 7-12 and 14 are unobvious by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 28 is unobvious of Johnson and Grim because the cited references neither disclose nor suggest a method of making cut pattern pieces having finished edges including "curing said polymer for finishing the edges of said cut pattern pieces, wherein the finished edges are stretchable for adjusting to movement of said cut pattern pieces." Claim 29 is unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 28, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 11, 14, 33, 46-47 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No 4,596,616 to Noda et al. Noda discloses a method of

basting during the tailoring of clothes wherein an adhesive is secured to the cloth. Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, an adhesive 3 is applied to haircloth 4 and a shoulder pad 5. The haircloth 4 is placed atop a base board 2, as shown in FIG. 3 and the shoulder pad 5 is placed atop the base board 2 as shown in FIG. 4. Referring to FIG. 6, pressure of applied to adhere the haircloth 4 to the shoulder pad 5. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that the adhesive 3 is not applied over loose fibers at the edge of a fabric. In fact, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Noda, the adhesive 3 is applied away from the edge of the fabric. Moreover, in column 5, lines 35-43, Noda specifically teaches that the adhesive 3 is positioned at a distant inside a sewing line 9 which is spaced from an edge of fabric. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that Noda teaches that the adhesive is spaced away from the edges of fabric and is not placed over loose fibers at the edge of the fabric as required by the claims of the present application.

Specifically, Applicants assert that claim 1 is unobvious over Noda because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric including "disposing a bead of a curable polymer over at least a portion of the cut edge of said fabric so that said curable polymer engages the free ends of said fibers at the edge of said fabric." Claims 2, 4, 11 and 14 are unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 5 is unobvious over Noda because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method of making a fabric having a finished edge including "disposing a curable polymer over the edge of said fabric so that said curable polymer engages the free ends of said fibers at the edge of said fabric."

Independent claim 33 is unobvious over Noda because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including a cut pattern piece with "a fabric having a plurality of fibers with free ends that terminate at the cut edge of said cut pattern piece . . . , wherein said bead of cured polymer material contacts at least some of the free ends of said fibers at the cut edge of said fabric for finishing the edge."

Independent claim 46 is unobvious over Noda because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a garment including "a cut pattern piece made of fibers, at least some of said fibers having free ends that terminate at a cut edge of said cut pattern piece" and "a cured polymer material provided in contact with the free ends of said fibers at the cut edge of said cut pattern piece." Claim 47 is unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 46.

Independent claim 53 is unobvious over Noda because the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests a method making a fabric having a finished edge including "providing a fabric having a plurality of fibers, at least some of said fibers having free ends terminating at an unfinished edge of said fabric; disposing a curable polymer over the edge of said fabric so that said curable polymer engages said fibers proximate to said unfinished edge of said fabric" and "curing said polymer for finishing said unfinished edge of said fabric."

The Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,825 to Henricksen. Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2 thereof, Henricksen discloses a breast supporting garment 10 including layers of silicone, rubber or latex rubber 15 that provide non-slip surfaces. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that Henricksen does not overcome the deficiencies noted above in Grim. There is no teaching or suggestion in Henricksen that the silicone rubber or latex rubber finishes the edge of

the fabric. In addition, Henricksen does not teach "disposing a curable polymer over the edge of said fabric so that said curable polymer engages the free ends of said fibers at the edge of said fabric" and "after the disposing step, curing said polymer for finishing the edge of said fabric."

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement has been filed herewith.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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